with resultant heavy financial repercussions.

Instructions for Independent Functioning of AIR and TV

253. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering an interim autonomous set-up or a management committee for Doordarshan and A.I.R. pending a comprehensive legislation to that effect;

(b) whether Government have given instructions that the Doordarshan and A.I.R. would function independently of the Ministry as reported in the Indian Express dated 12th December, 1989, if so, what are the details of such instructions;

(c) whether Government are examining the Akash Bharti Report and Prasar Bharti Bill if so, what are their salient features and whether Government intend to set up one Corporation for A.I.R. and Doordarshan as recommended in the Bill;

(d) whether an Expert Committee will be constituted to work out the modalities of forming such autonomous bodies; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the firm view of the Government to allow the two electronic media to function independently without any control of the Government, direct or indirect after the autonomous set-up is created.

(c) to (e) The Government have studied the salient features of the Akash Bharati Bill, 1978, the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha on Ist May, 1979, as also basic features of some important broadcasting organisations in the World. These shall be kept in view in the Bill confering autonomous status to the two media proposed to be introduced during the current session of the Parliament.

Functioning of Telecom Department and Telecom Commission

254. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Telecom Commission has resigned following dfferences with the Government;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with Commission's functioning and performance with regard to development of indigenous technology; and

(c) whether Government are considering bifurcation of the Telecom Department and the Telecom Commission and whether the Telecom Board would be revived?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No resignation has been received from the Chairman of the Telecom Commission.

(b) The Commission was set up on 3-5-89 and charged with certain tasks. The Commission's performance is reviewed from time to time.

(c) No such specific proposals are under consideration.